

VZCZCXRO9384

PP RUEHFK RUEHKSO RUEHNH
DE RUEHNH #0128 2700743

ZNR UUUUU ZZH

P R 270743Z SEP 07

FM AMCONSUL NAHA

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0839

INFO RHMFIUU/18WG CP KADENA AB JA

RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 0016

RHMFIUU/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI

RUSFNSG/CDR10THASG TORII STATION JA

RHMFIUU/CG FIRST MAW

RUHBABA/CG III MEF CAMP COURTNEY JA

RUHBBEA/CG THIRD FSSG CAMP KINSER JA

RUHBABA/CG THIRD MARDIV

RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC

RHMFIUU/COMFLEACT OKINAWA JA

RHMFIUU/COMMARCORBASESJAPAN CAMP BUTLER JA

RHMFIUU/COMMARFORPAC

RHMFIUU/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA

RHHMHAA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI

RHOVVKG/COMSEVENTHFLT

RUHBVMA/CTF 76

RUYLBBAH/DODSPECREP OKINAWA JA

RUESDJ/FBIS OKINAWA JA

RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 0270

RUEKJCS/Joint STAFF WASHDC

RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 0897

RHEHAAA/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC

RHMFIUU/NAVCRIMINVSRVRA OKINAWA JA

RUHBANB/OKINAWA AREA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CAMP BUTLER JA

RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 0346

RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 0305

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC

RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 0090

RUEHIN/AIT TAIPEI 0044

RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 0838

RHMFIS/USARPAC COMMAND CENTER FT SHAFTER HI

RUALBCC/YOKOTA AB HQ USFJ

UNCLAS NAHA 000128

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [MARR](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PINS](#) JA

SUBJECT: OKINAWA MAYORS FINALLY REALIZE BASE REALIGNMENT IS REAL

(SBU) Some good news from Okinawa. Consul General had drinks September 26 with two key Okinawa Mayors, Gibu of Kin Town (Camp Hansen) and Miyagi of Kadena Town (Kadena Air Base). They both were very excited about the recent visit to Okinawa of Guam Governor Felix Camacho. They stressed that Governor Camacho's visit, combined with the visit to Guam several weeks ago by most of the base-hosting mayors from the central area of Okinawa, had galvanized the Okinawa mayors. In short, they now finally realize that the U.S. is serious about the realignment plan in Okinawa, and that the return of most of the base land south of Kadena is real. Until the visit, most had been thinking the realignment plan for consolidation/return of facilities was "just another plan" much like what they have seen many times in the past thirty years -- a nice idea but not something to actually bank on as a mayor planning for the city's future.

(SBU) Mayor Miyagi noted that with their visit to Guam, and following discussions with Governor Camacho at a dinner September 14 at the Consul General's residence attended by six of the central area mayors, the mayors have changed their view. They now understand that Guam fully welcomes the move of 8,000 Marines from Okinawa, and that the USG is moving forward with its own planning and funding for developing necessary facilities in Guam. They also now realize that consolidation is just a few years away, so they must plan now to deal with issues such as changes to their tax base with the loss of base land rents, employment issues, land use planning, and transition subsidies from Tokyo. The central mayors' association now is beginning to

do so.

(SBU) Mayor Miyagi told the Consul General the atmosphere has changed dramatically with Governor Camacho's visit to Okinawa. Consul General has been telling people here repeatedly of course that we are serious about the major consolidation/return of land, as part of the overall realignment package, conditioned on the successful move of MCAS Futenma to the Futenma Replacement Facility (FRF) and the successful move of 8,000 Marines to Guam.

But hearing directly from Governor Camacho and seeing with their own eyes what is happening in Guam seems to have brought it home to them. This is a good thing. Mayor Miyagi also noted this is greatly increasing pressure on Okinawa Governor Nakaima to cooperate with Tokyo on the FRF Environmental Impact Assessment, since they all understand that the consolidation/return of land and the move to Guam will not take place without the successful move of MCAS Futenma to FRF.

MAHER